

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
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STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

IOWA HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA



Commemorate Iowa's 175th Anniversary of Statehood

A year from now, on December 28, 2021, Iowans everywhere will mark a major milestone: 175 years of statehood. Throughout the next 12 months, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs invites you to learn more about the people and places that have shaped our state. Here are a just few of the special programs you won't want to miss:

- A new series of [Iowa Stories](#) and [Iowa History 101](#) online presentations
- New activities with Goldie's Kids Club
- Iowa 175th exhibit "Iowa's People & Places" opening in March
- Iowa History Month in March
- A special 175th anniversary edition of the [Annals of Iowa](#) in October
- Iowa History Book Club debuting Fall 2021

You can find more details on our [calendar](#).

Pictured above: Aurora Rivera, Isabel Rivera and John Ayala explored north-central Iowa by automobile in the 1930s.



Goldie's Kids Club: Winter Break Programs

Leave the winter blues behind and join Goldie the Goldfinch to kick off the 175th anniversary of Iowa's statehood. Our state bird has organized some special activities to keep you busy during winter break.

Join Goldie's Kids Club to register for a free Winter Break Kit filled with a recipe card, a 175th birthday hat activity, noisemaker

materials, story time model magic and other goodies.

You can also download coloring sheets, register for a live History Mystery program and more!

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[SUBMIT AN ITEM](#)

Collecting Memories of Covid-19

Earlier this year, the State Historical Society of Iowa invited Iowans to submit both physical and digital artifacts to show future historians how the Covid-19 pandemic affected work, school, family traditions and everyday life here in Iowa in 2020. As the country rolls out a new vaccine this week, we are still requesting Iowans to submit images, artifacts and stories that will help chronicle the pandemic's widespread impact here in Iowa. [Read more on the Iowa History blog.](#)

State Historic Preservation Tax Credits Awarded

The Amana Woolen Mills, the Englert Theatre in Iowa City, the former Storm Lake High School and a John Deere building in Waterloo are among 10 historic sites across Iowa that received a total of \$20.4 million in historic preservation tax credits. Jointly administered by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the program invests in historic buildings and features that contribute to a community and neighborhood.



The Englert Theatre's recently restored [marquee will be re-lit Friday, Dec. 18, in Iowa City.](#)

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Rural Revitalization Grants

The State Historic Preservation Office is now accepting applications for Iowa's Rural Heritage Revitalization Grants program. Earlier this fall, SHPO received \$600,000 to redistribute in historic preservation grants, funded by a \$4.8 million grant from the National Park Service's Paul

The Hitchcock House, a stop on the Underground Railroad, in Lewis, Iowa.

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Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program. Iowa's local governments and nonprofits that own properties on the National Register of Historic Places are eligible to apply for grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$125,000. **Apply by Feb. 1.**

National Trust for Historic Preservation Grants

All too often, history has overlooked the role African American sites have played in the broader story of America. To help, the National Trust for Historic Preservation created the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund and is now offering grants of \$50,000 to \$150,000 to support ongoing preservation activities for historic sites, museums and landscapes that represent African American cultural heritage. **Letters of intent are due Jan. 15.**



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National Park Service Grants: Three Deadlines Coming Up



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History of Equal Rights Grants help preserve sites associated with America's history of equal rights. The grants are not limited to any specific group and are intended to include the broadest possible interpretation of sites associated with efforts to achieve equal rights, including architectural services, historic structure reports, preservation plans, physical preservation to structures and more. **Applications are due Jan. 12.**



The **African American Civil Rights Grant Program** is expanding to include the documentation, interpretation and preservation of sites that tell a fuller story of the struggle for African American civil rights, from the trans-Atlantic slave trade onwards. **Applications are due Jan. 12.**

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The next round of **Save America's Treasures** grants is open, in two different project categories: preservation and collections. Preservation projects must involve properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places or designated as a National Historic Landmark. Collections projects may include artifacts, museum collections, documents, sculptures and other works of art. **Applications are due Jan. 26.**

Nominations: Awards and Election

The State Historical Society of Iowa is accepting nominations for its Excellence in Iowa History Awards and for members to serve on its 12-person board of trustees.

The Excellence in Iowa History Awards recognize individuals, organizations and communities that made outstanding contributions to the study and practice of Iowa history during 2020, as well as outstanding publications, local history initiatives and significant, long-term achievements in Iowa history. **Nominations for the Shambaugh Award are due Jan. 2. All other nominations are due Feb. 1.**

Board of Trustees nominations can be submitted by anyone, but nominees must be members of the State Historical Society of Iowa, willing to attend five meetings per year and serve on various committees. **Board nominations are due March 1.**



2018 Excellence in Iowa History Award recipients Pella Historical Society and Wallace Winkie Foundation with Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg.

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Goldie's History Kits

While other birds fly south for the winter, Goldie the Goldfinch is sticking around to offer an array of new online materials for students and teachers. Check out the newest batch of Goldie's History Kits, which align with the Iowa Core Social Studies Standards and highlight artifacts from the State Historical Society of Iowa's collection.

- **Kindergarten:** "Children's Lives: Comparing Long Ago to Today," featuring children's clothing and a doll carriage

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- **First Grade:** “Meskwaki Culture,” featuring a cradleboard and a medicine bag
- **Fourth Grade:** “The Great Depression and Dust Bowl,” featuring a seed catalog and a flour-sack apron